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1. Relations with Local Communist Party.

25X1 Prior to 1939 the Polish Red Cross conducted its activities through the cooperation of public spirited citizens. Many of these were highly placed and others were socially prominent. Among the founders or charter members were two people who have retained their posts until December 1945, namely, Joseph Wielowiejski and Countess Tarnowska.

After the fall of the Polish Government and occupation of the country by the Germans, the Polish Red Cross continued its unpolitical activities and brought aid to the victims of war. It is noteworthy that Mr. Flapert, Polish Director of the Red Cross, was selected by the Germans from the Red Cross and is now living in Cracow.

After the creation of the Provisional Polish Government in Moscow (the Lublin Government) in 1944, the Polish Red Cross was made one of the targets of the Polish Communists.

Warsaw was freed from the Germans on 19 January 1945, and the Polish Lublin Government moved into Warsaw - Praga - soon after that. This new Communist controlled government did not get around to the communizing of the Polish Red Cross until May 1945, when the first reorganization took place.

At this time President Lackert was replaced by a Polish army man with prestige, General Szeptycki. The General was a venerable old Red Cross worker who the government felt, because of his 81 years, would make a good front behind which the Communists could benefit from his prestige and carry on their activities. But there was still fire in the old general and he valiantly fought all efforts of the Polish Army and the Polish Warsaw Government to introduce members of the Communist Party into the ranks of the Executive Council, (Rada Naczelna). When the government realized that nothing could be done with General Szeptycki, they removed him in September 1945 and named as President the former Counsel of the Executive Committee, a Polish lawyer named Ludwik Christians. Christians was a congenial man who tried to please everyone, and yet he was enough of a Pole to feel that the Red Cross should be unpolitical and should bring aid to his war ravaged homeland. He made many concessions and some of the subordinate positions were occupied by Communist Party members, but he did not prove cooperative enough; hence he was removed in April 1946.

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In Christian's place the Polish Government named Colonel Koskiewicz who was a psychiatrist by training and profession. He did his undergraduate work at the University of Lwow and taught there until the fall of Poland in 1939. When the Russians occupied Lwow, Koskiewicz went to the Soviet Union where he was employed in various psychiatric institutions. With the formation of the Union of Polish Patriots in 1943 the Colonel became a member of this organization. He was also a member of the Communist Party. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] As far as is known, Koskiewicz is still (March 28, 1947) the President of the Executive Council of the Polish Red Cross in Warsaw.

As soon as Colonel Koskiewicz took office in April 1946 there was a general shake-up in the Executive Council and all twelve members, who blocked the efforts of the government to infiltrate Communist Party members into the Red Cross, were removed. The new Council included as First Vice-President a Polish Socialist Party member named Dobrowolski, and Second Vice-President, Dr. Kazanowski, a member of the Communist Party. It should be noted that loyal members of any of the six Polish Bloc Parties to which PPS belongs are Communists.

Another change, which was made immediately upon Colonel Koskiewicz' taking over the presidency, was the Administrator. The Administrator of the Polish Red Cross attached to the Executive Council in Warsaw conducts all the activities of the organization between the periodic meetings of the Council. This post was filled in April 1946 by Dr. Kulicki, a Polish Communist Party member. Kulicki was a baggage man in Lithuania prior to joining the Polish Communist Party. After he joined the party he became a school teacher, and in 1946 was the Administrative Director.

To summarize, it may be said that since April 1946 the Executive Council of the Polish Red Cross is composed entirely either of members of the Polish Communist Party or of members of Bloc Parties which cooperate with the Communists.

2. Degree of Infiltration by Communists and Communist Sympathizers.

It may be said in addition to the above, that because the Polish Communist Party has not trained a sufficient number of workers who can assume posts in the field, up to March 1947 a negligible number of Communists have become members of the field organizations. As a guess, one may say that several hundred Communist sympathizers have been placed in various local posts.

3. Relations with the Government.

(a) Degree of Government financial support.

Whereas prior to 1944 the Polish Red Cross was an independent organization supported by public subscription and by outright grants from various Ministries (prior to 1939), after the creation of the Polish Lublin Government it was placed under the Ministry of War. That was why a General (Szepetycki) was named to the post of President of the Executive Council. In addition there are extra grants from the Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare and the Polish State Social Insurance Institute.

(b) Extent that the Government determines or influences operating regulations.

In April 1946, when Col. Koskiewicz assumed the Chief Executive position within the Polish Red Cross, this organization became completely subservient to the will of the Government. As a result all operating regulations, instructions, personnel, finances are subject to any controls that the Communist Party or the Government care to impose upon the Polish Red Cross.

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Since the Polish Red Cross falls under the Ministry of National Defense, liaison is maintained between the two organizations by Colonel Wolinski, [redacted] who is also a member of the Polish Communist Party. He represents General Spychalski who is the Political Education Chief of the Ministry of National Defense, a highly placed member of the Communist Party, and the Director of the Polish Red Cross within the Ministry of National Defense.

The Polish Red Cross ceased being a non-political relief organization when, on 27 June 1946, it officially signed an appeal to the Poles asking them to vote "three times, yes" in the national referendum held on 30 June 1946.

(c) In 1945 a coordinating board was set up to handle all relief organizations in Poland. Through this coordination of various charities, relief organizations and other institutions bringing aid to the Poles duplication is prevented. Among the members are the Catholic Charity organization, Caritas, the Y.M.C.A., various Protestant relief units, and the Jewish Joint Distribution Committee. Among the other organizations which also bring aid to Poland are the American Red Cross, Swiss Red Cross, Swedish Red Cross, and Danish Red Cross, U.S. Relief to Poland (sponsored by the American Poles), and Don Suisse.

4. Means of Support.

The income of the Polish Red Cross is derived from two main sources, first, an allotment of funds by the Ministry of War with special extra allotments by the Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare, and the State Social Insurance Institute, and, second, from private donations. Since 1939 the International Red Cross has contributed nothing directly to the Polish Red Cross. The other relief organizations working in Poland usually contribute material aid rather than financial assistance.

Despite the fact that detailed figures are not available, according to information obtained from a member of the Executive Council, the Polish Red Cross in 1946 obtained 12 million zlotys per month from various sources. About 90 percent of this amount may be said to come from the Government while the remaining 10 percent from contributions, drives, and profits on sale of dolls and proceeds from special entertainments, performances, concerts, etc. The estimated need of the Polish Red Cross is said to be in the neighborhood of 50 million zlotys per month.

5. General Organization.

In Warsaw the Polish Red Cross is governed by the Executive Council composed of 12 members with a President at the head and an Administrative Director handling the organization between the meetings of the Council.

There are various lost persons bureaus, identification bureaus, hospitals, orphanages which are handled by the Administrative Director.

This organization is duplicated in each voevod where there is a Regional Executive Council headed by a President and with a Regional Administrative Director. Below the regional level the large cities as well as county organizations follow the same pattern but the number of members of the Executive Council varies according to the size of the unit.

(a) The size of the organization in Poland: in 1946 the Polish Red Cross had approximately 5,000 employees.

(b) Organizational scheme: there are some 17 voevods in Poland in each of which there is a Polish Red Cross Regional Organization similar to the one which exists in Warsaw.

(c) Operating Methods and their effectiveness:

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Because the Polish Red Cross had suffered tremendous losses during the war, it began its operations under the newly created Polish Provisional Government in a very inefficient manner. This was due to a shortage of trained workers and lack of funds. As many of the workers who were in German concentration camps returned to Poland and resumed their positions in the organization there was a marked improvement in the handling of all cases. The injection of Communists into the structure of the Polish Red Cross has tended to increase inefficiency and lower the morale of the workers in the field stations. In Warsaw the morale was at a low ebb when Colonel Koskiewicz took over.

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